

SB 286



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

January 25, 2011

RE: Testimony in support of SB 286

Dear Chairman Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation hereby expresses **strong support** of SB 286.

Rural communities have been historically underserved by HDOA commodity inspectors. Lengthy delays and additional costs place an unnecessary burden on rural farmers, placing them at a competitive disadvantage. These inefficiencies were evident even prior to the HDOA budget cuts and will continue, unless addressed, after the restoration of those funds and resultant positions.

The legislation expressed in SB 286 represents precisely the type of targeted support we need in our rural communities.

Enabling the HDOA to train and license 3rd party commodity inspectors would not only make it easier and less costly to comply with certification laws, but would reduce the strain placed on the Department's limited budget and personnel.

Our rural communities include individuals who are knowledgeable about the commodities grown there. Application of a training and licensure program, rather than hiring full-time employees for this purpose would adequately serve this part-time function without burdening the budget and personnel of the HDOA; allowing the Department's finite resources to be better applied elsewhere.

Utilizing knowledgeable members within our communities, particularly for certifying coffee, would make compliance with the laws affordable, accessible and farmer friendly.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 286.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Manfredi", written in a cursive style.

Chris Manfredi
Vice President
Chair; Government Affairs
Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation

**Ka'u Farm Bureau
PO BOX 1109
Naalehu Hawaii 96772
808-929-9550**

January 25, 2011

RE: Testimony in support of SB 286

Dear Chairman Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Please accept our testimony in **strong support** of SB 286.

The vast majority of Ka'u Farm Bureau's members are coffee farmers.

This legislation represents precisely the type of targeted support we need in our rural communities and we **strongly support** it.


In Ka'u we were experiencing challenges relating to affordable access to commodity inspectors long before the HDOA budget cuts. It has been common to wait several weeks for our coffee to be inspected. Since the budget cuts, asking HDOA inspectors to service Ka'u was a distant concept as they have overstressed schedules centered on the mills in Kona.

The discovery of **Coffee Berry Borer** in Kona, and resultant quarantine, poses a significant risks when moving coffee back and forth by truck between Ka'u and Kona. There is not yet a viable corridor established between Ka'u and Kona that requires, in many instances, fumigation of our coffee. These rules could cause our coffee to be fumigated more than once (once when leaving Kona and again when leaving the Big Island), incurring significant, unnecessary costs and raises health concerns for our customers.

Enabling the HDOA to train and license 3rd party commodity inspectors would not only make it easier and less costly to comply with state certification laws, and reduce the risk of infestation of CBB in Ka'u, this measure would reduce the strain placed on the Department's budget and personnel. **Simply put, it makes good sense.**

Please help us reduce the costs –both in time and money- of compliance with the certification laws and reduce the risks associated with the spread of Coffee Berry Borer.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 286.



Chris Manfredi
President
Ka'u Farm Bureau

Chris Manfredi
Ka'u Farm and Ranch Co. LLC
Ka'u Local Products, LLC
PO BOX 1109
Naalehu Hawaii 96772

January 25, 2011

RE: Testimony in support of SB 286

Dear Chairman Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Please accept my testimony in support of SB 286.

As a stakeholder in the fledgling Ka'u coffee industry and founding president of Ka'u County Farm Bureau, I commend Senator Kahele, his staff, the introducers and supporting members Agriculture Committee for introducing and hearing SB 286.

This legislation represents precisely the type of targeted support we need in our rural communities.

In Ka'u we were experiencing challenges relating to affordable access to commodity inspectors long before the HDOA budget cuts. Additional expense in terms of time and cost were making our district un-competitive in a very competitive marketplace.

Natural challenges in the form of drought and VOG have made this season particularly challenging. Economic challenges piled on top of these have caused some of our efforts to grow this emerging industry to stall.

Enabling the HDOA to train and license 3rd party commodity inspectors would not only make it easier and less costly to comply with certification laws, but would reduce the strain placed on the Department's budget and personnel.

Utilizing knowledgeable members within our community to certify coffee would make compliance with the law affordable, accessible and farmer friendly; not gaining a competitive advantage, but helping to level the playing field with already stiff competition from around the globe.

Like a knowledgeable local mechanic can certify that your car is safe to drive on a State highway, so too can a knowledgeable member of our community certify that Ka'u coffee is in compliance with all applicable laws.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 286.



Chris Manfredi

nishihara1 - Dale

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 10:14 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: lfplan@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB286 on 1/27/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 1/27/2011 2:45:00 PM SB286

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Megan Collins
Organization: Individual
Address: South Point Road Na'alehu, Hawaii
Phone: 808 929-9148
E-mail: lfplan@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/25/2011

Comments:



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA
Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0011
Fax: 808.528.0922

NORA A. NOMURA
Deputy Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0003
Fax: 808.528.0922

DEREK M. MIZUNO
Deputy Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0055
Fax: 808.523.6879

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate

Committee on Agriculture

LATE

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
January 27, 2011

S.B. 286 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

The Hawaii Government Employees' Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes the passage of S.B. 286.

We certainly agree that the devastating cuts and layoffs absorbed by the Department of Agriculture made it very difficult, if not impossible, to provide quality statewide service to the agriculture industry. But, while we sympathize with the farmers and others in the industry that have been affected, we cannot support the use of private agents to inspect, classify or certify agricultural commodities, which we see as the equivalent to the privatization of the inspection function of the department.

Higher costs, lower quality of services provided and loss of accountability are some of the common results of the privatization of government services. The essential agricultural inspection and certification functions should continue to be performed statewide by employees of the State Department of Agriculture. Rather than allowing the designation of private agents to inspect or classify agricultural commodities in underserved areas, we would prefer to see the restoration and filling of positions along with the re-establishment of operations and services lost as a result of previous cuts to the department's budget.

The HGEA opposes provisions that would allow the contracting out of inspection and certification work traditionally performed by state employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on S.B. 286.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director